

Narrative for B222 Fire Behavior  
Rex McKnight- Air Attack

On June 11, 1999 at 1458 hrs left Fairbanks to relieve Ken Perry as Air Attack on fire B222. Received briefing from Ken as he was heading to Fairbanks as they were getting low on fuel. Two helicopters were dropping water on the fire and Mike Bobo was the IC. I arrived at the fire around 1530 hrs and started to get a feel for the fire, at that time the fire was burning to the south with the flanks and head 100% active. Talked to Mike Bobo and got his general plan for suppression action which was to start a burn out along a dozer line that had been constructed along the west side of the fire tying into some gravel roads in the area. The north end of the fire at the origin was knocked down by the suppression actions earlier in the day. There were some personnel in the general area holding and mopping up. The rest of the resources were staged at the assault landing strip to the west of the fire preparing for the burnout operations.

At approximately 1600 hrs. I observed a wind shift out of the east pushing the fire west that lasted for approximately 15-20 minutes the fire moved approx. 1/4 of a mile west. The wind then shifted out of the west pushing the fire east toward Jarvis Creek and lasted for 20-25 minutes to around 1700 hrs moving 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile to the east. The column at that time was standing straight up and was topping out at 10000 to 15000 ft. At that time the wind shifted out of the south pushing the column that had formed to the north. I notified IC Bobo that the wind was starting to come out of the south. At that time I was on the south end of the fire and he informed me that they were getting a "tornado" on the ground. As I headed back to the north end of the fire I observed that there was an eddy effect happening on the north side of the column. There were two distinct whorls on the west and east sides of the column. As I circled around the north end of the fire and looked down to the ground I could see the "tornado" that Bobo was talking about it was picking up debris and was pushing the fire across the control line that they were using as an anchor point. The event lasted for no more than 5 minutes.

I contacted Bobo as I was circling around the north end and asked him if all the personnel were safe and moving out of the area. He replied that they were moving out of the area and into safety zones. After a few minutes he report that one person had recieved some burns and he would be taking them to Delta.

The fire continued to burn with great intensity to the north for the rest of my time over the fire.

N4

FIELD WITH DOZER  
PILES IN IT

TO  
DELTA

12 MILE CROSSING ROAD

FIRE AT  
APPROX.  
1530 HRS  
06/11/99

ORIGINAL

NEW DOZER LINE

WIND

JARVIS CREEK

RICHARDSON HWY

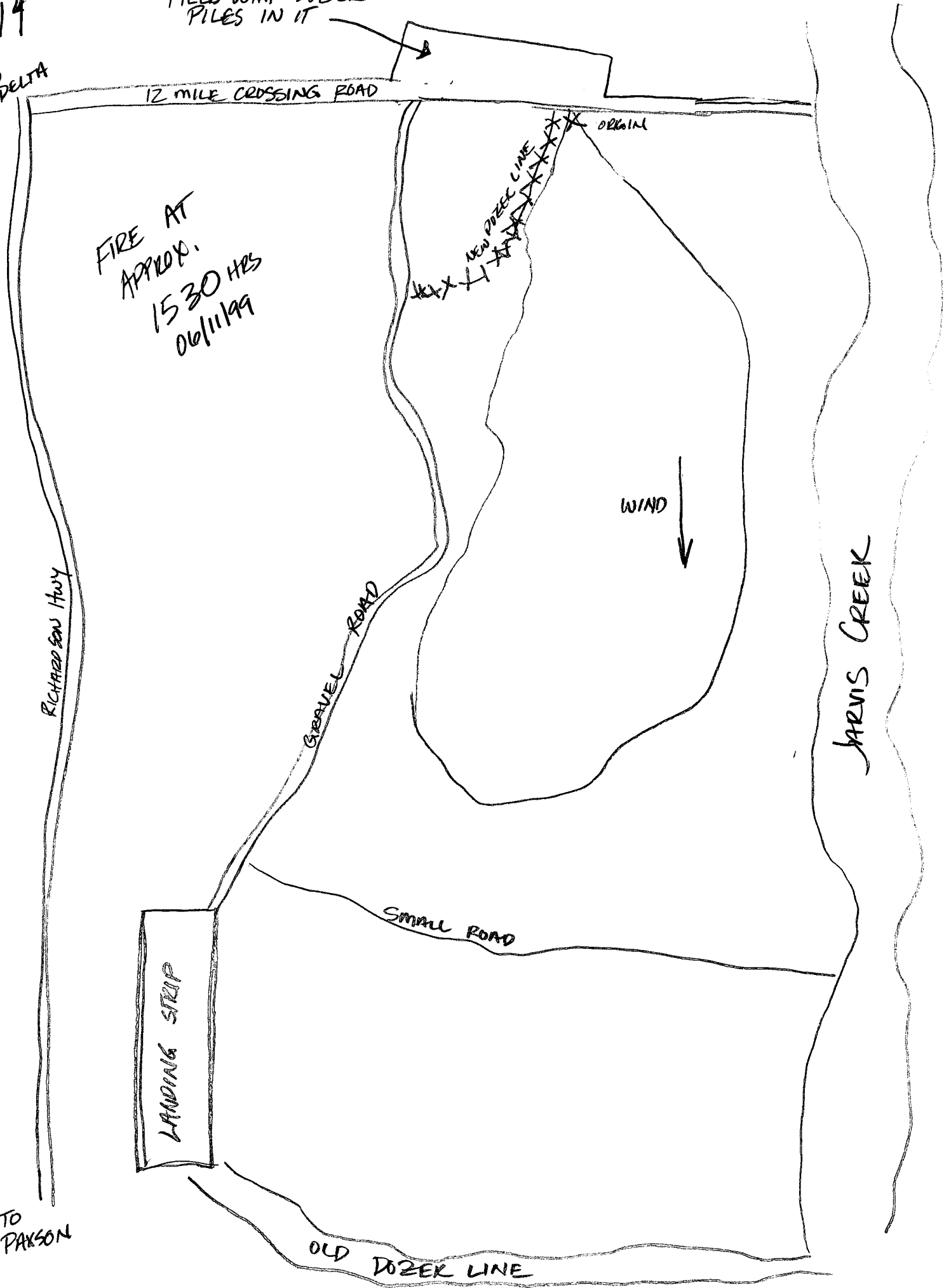
GRAVEL ROAD

SMALL ROAD

LANDING STRIP

TO  
PAXSON

OLD  
DOZER LINE



N 4

FIELD WITH DOZER  
PILES IN IT

TO  
DELTA

12 MILE CROSSING ROAD

FIRE  
AT 1600 HRS  
06/11/99

RICHARDSON HWY

GRAVEL ROAD

WIND

JARVIS CREEK

Small Road

MINING CAMP

TO  
PAXSON

OLD  
DOZER LINE

N4

FIELD WITH DOZER  
PILES IN IT

TO  
DELTA

12 MILE CROSSING ROAD

FIRE AT  
1630 HRS  
06/11/99

RICHARDSON HWY

GRAVEL ROAD

WIND  
↓

JARVIS CREEK

LANDING STRIP

SMALL ROAD

TO  
PAXSON

OLD  
DOZER LINE

FIRE  
AT BLOW  
UP AT  
APPROX. 1500 HRS  
06/11/99

N9 TO DELTA

RICHARDSON HWY

TO PAXSON

A WIND AROUND  
SMOKE COLUMN

12 MILE CROSSING ROAD

LANDING STRIP

OLD DOZER LINE

WIND

